

Overuse of Imaging

Measure 5: Policy for ALARA Specific to Imaging Children

Description

The percentage of facilities with a policy for “as low as reasonably achievable” (ALARA), specific to the imaging of children. A higher proportion indicates better performance as reflected by use of minimal radiation when imaging.

Calculation

This measure requires survey data and is calculated as follows:

The percentage of eligible facilities with a policy for “as low as reasonably achievable” (ALARA), specific to the imaging of children (numerator divided by denominator).

Definitions

Facility	Any facility that performs imaging on children (hospitals, free standing facilities, etc.).
ALARA	“As low as reasonably achievable” amount of radiation exposure for a given imaging study for a patient based on age and size.
Children	Newborn to 18 years old.
Imaging	CT scan of any part of the body.

Eligible Population

Facilities with CT scanners that image children

Specification

Denominator	The number of facilities that perform imaging of children.
Numerator	The number of facilities that perform imaging of children with a policy for ALARA specific to the imaging of children.

Exclusions

- Facilities that do not image children who are younger than 18 years old.